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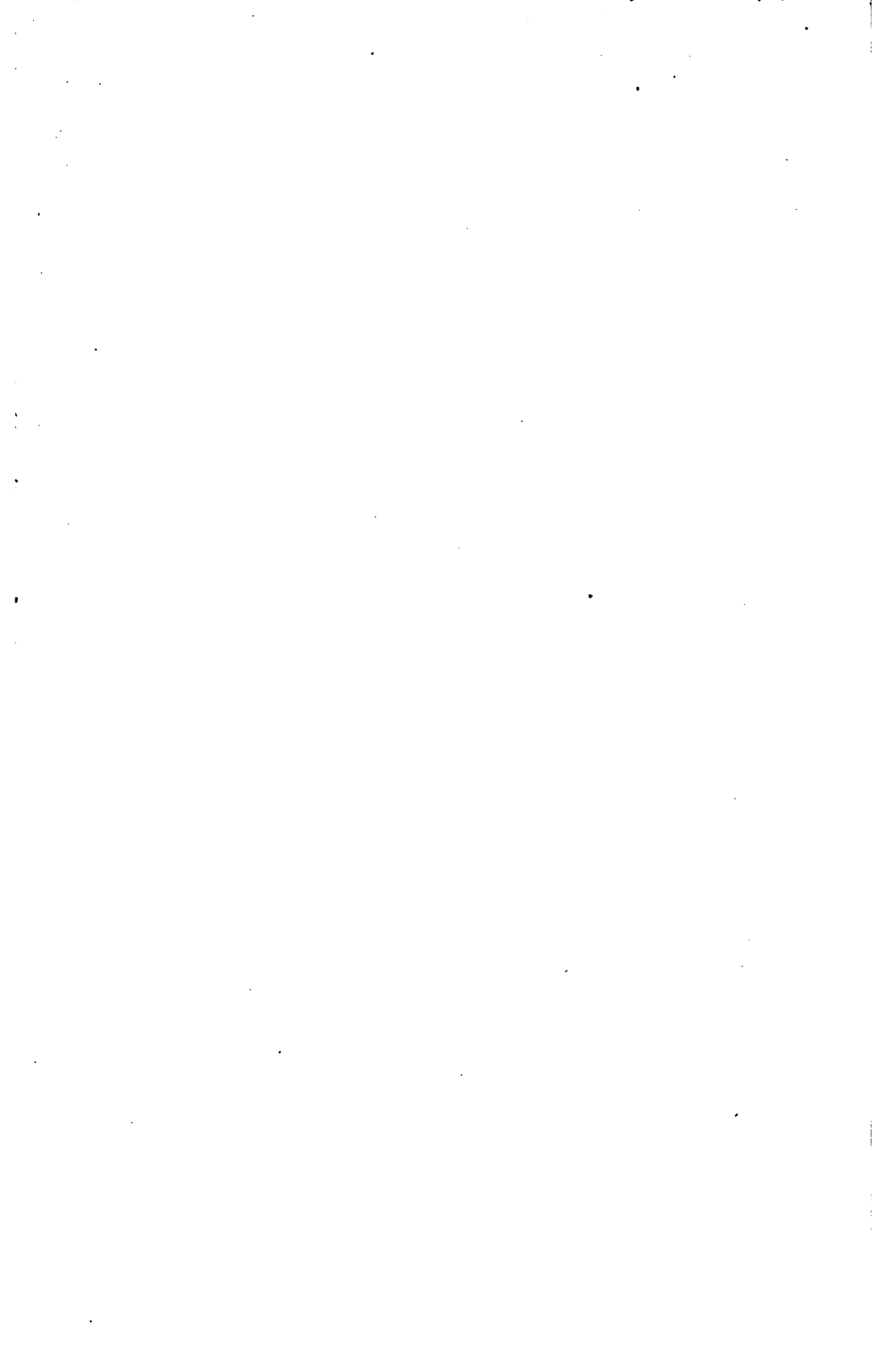
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W. B. Spooner

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OCTOBER 20, 1886





*James*

no author

## In Memoriam

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WILLIAM BROWN SPOONER

Born in Petersham, Massachusetts

APRIL 20, 1806

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Died in Boston, Massachusetts

OCTOBER 28, 1880

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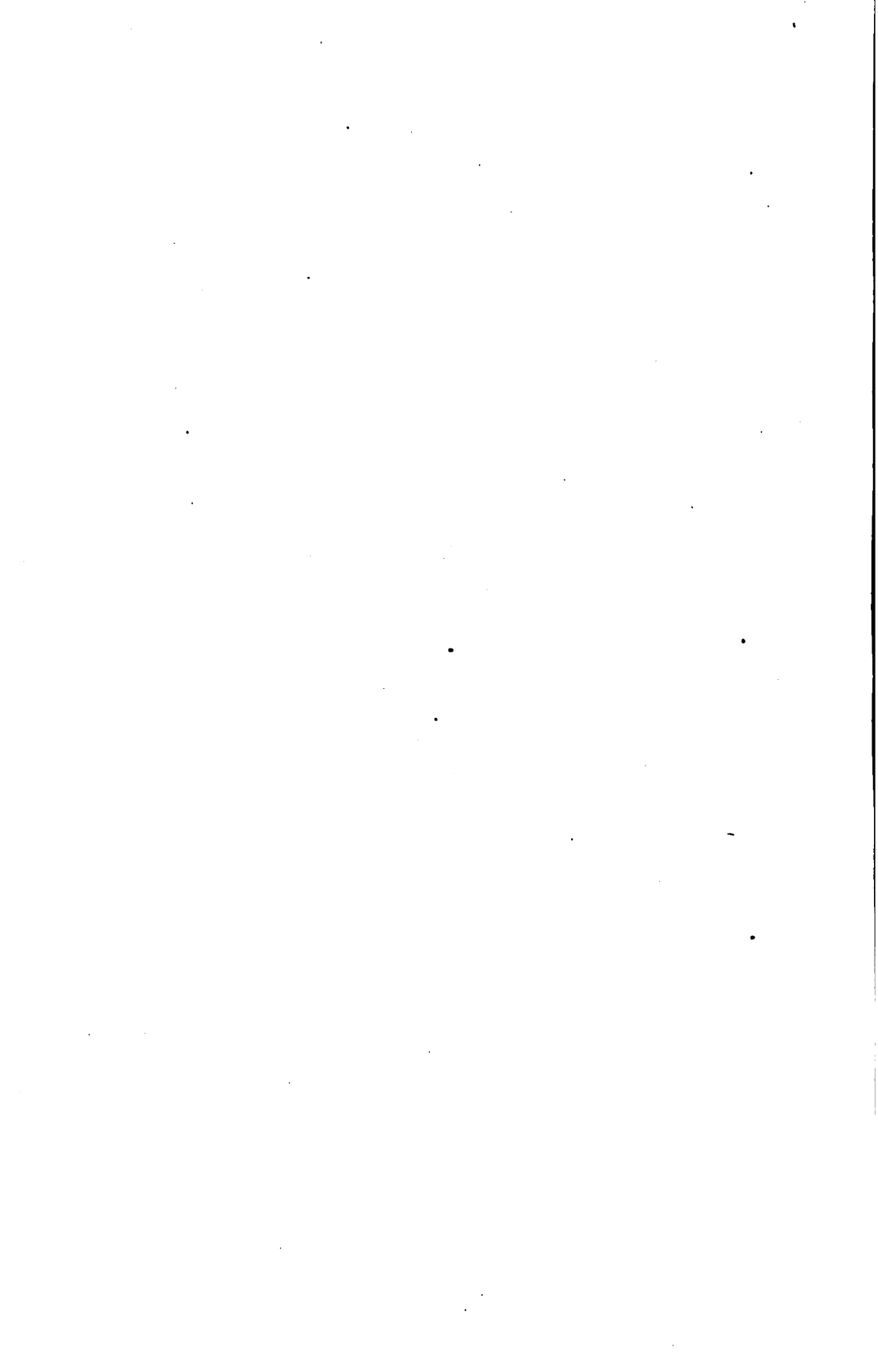
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THE funeral of Mr. William B. Spooner took place at the Second Church, on Boylston street, Monday, November 1, 1880, at one o'clock P. M. There was present a large number of relatives and friends, representatives of the Boston Board of Trade, New England Shoe and Leather Association, Shoe and Leather National Bank, Board of Managers of the Little Wanderers' Home, Board of Directors of the Washingtonian Home, Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, and about fifty gentlemen connected with the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society—of which he was the loved president. The floral offerings were of the richest character: a large anchor, made of ivy leaves and white roses, was furnished by the Board of Trade; a pillow of white flowers, with the word "Rest" worked with violets in the center; a large cross of ivy leaves placed on a base of calla lilies; a large wreath of white roses, and a double sheaf of ripened wheat tied with white roses. The floral offerings were placed upon and around the casket, near the pulpit.

The following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers: Hon. William Claflin, Hon. J. Warren Merrill, Hon. Avery Plumer, Ezra Farnsworth, Hon. Seth Turner, Josiah M. Jones, Nathan Clark, and H. S. Chase.

Rev. Edward A. Horton, pastor of the church, delivered a just and careful analysis of the life and character of Mr. Spooner; and the closing address, by Rev. A. J. Gordon, D.D., was deeply impressive. The music was most appropriate and finely rendered, and all the services such as would have been approved by him whose loss we mourn.





## ADDRESS OF REV. EDWARD A. HORTON.

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THE time has come to our friend that is appointed to all — a time that never grows familiar though it is so universal ; and we come together with no less depth of grief because this life seemed well rounded and full of years. But there are frequently mitigating thoughts which take away the heaviest part of the burden. In the case of him who commands our tearful offerings at this time there were many cheering features ; facts which, when recalled, brighten the hour and pour sunshine into our meditations. They cannot make up to us our loss, but they can go far to relieve the gloom, and make us not only resigned but thankful.

We are remembering one, in these last offices of friendship, who passed a long life with comparatively little sickness and pain. His well-ordered habits brought daily vigor. Not until this last crisis came did he know what prolonged distress meant. This chapter of his illness was not long, measured by the length of his life ; nor was it painfully severe. You will be glad to know that by the physician's skill his last weeks on earth were rendered somewhat comfortable. He passed away, at last, as tranquilly as the babe falls asleep on its mother's breast. He was ready to depart ; he never was unprepared. Those eternal things that concern life and death were always before him. To the last, while consciousness remained, his face lighted up at the mention of the names of friends, and his messages of love were promptly spoken. The autumn leaf falls in all its beauty, and is trodden under foot of men ; but a man like this passes not from among the living without leaving something enduring.

Let us briefly dwell upon some virtues in his career ; not for the purpose of eulogy, but to aid ourselves in the building of our own character.

That which all noticed, and noticed to admire, was his probity. This trait serves as a key to all else in his actions. The sense of rectitude governed his conduct ; it imparted veracity to his statements, guaranty to his promises, and honor to his motives. He carried an atmosphere of sincerity ; therefore men confided in him, leaned on him in emergencies, and looked to him for a standard. This is a rare function to fill in business. No nobler one can I think of. It is often assumed that in mercantile pursuits probity is impossible ; and when we consider the temptations and excitement of a great city's occupations, the difficulties in the way tower high. But they were overpassed by his fidelity to principle. He kept himself unspotted. We are well aware that he rose to prosperity by persistent struggles. He possessed that self-making power which has characterized so many New England merchants. Obstacles became incitements, and those impediments that daunt the less resolute roused him to effort. This is the school of experience where so many learn their best lessons. Not much did he obtain from books, not much from schools — the more to his after regret, no doubt ; but with a holy purpose to get from the great world what others receive in sheltered libraries and studious years, he was an apt pupil in the college of humanity. He grew wise in practical judgment ; he stored up common sense and made a place for himself.

Mr. Spooner's benevolence was a crown of glory. He did not wait for death to reveal his generosity. Day by day he quietly blessed the poor, rescued the suffering, and clothed the naked. Day by day he was the answer for his Father in Heaven to those destitute ones who cried out "Give us this day our daily bread." What he gave away was, I am sure, given discreetly and to the wisest ends. What a multitude we may imagine will rise up to call him blessed ! In view of such a philanthropic career, who would not say, "Give us more men of wealth ; give us more successful men of business" — for money when thus employed guards the asylum,

builds the church, helps the hospital, and rolls back the tide of woe and sin.

Early in life our subject absolutely supported the cause of temperance. The public knew him long and knew him well as the champion of total abstinence. His heart was in it. He saw the evils of intemperance, and how it blights the land. So vivid did they come up to him that he saw no other or better course than that of absolute abstinence. Even those who differed from him respected the honesty and consistency of his position. He made no personal enmities, though his utterances were bold and public. As chief officer in a most respected organization, he became its color-bearer, and none more sincerely mourn his loss to-day than his temperance co-workers.

His religious feelings were very strong, very positive, and yet broad. He loved his church; he loved the Sunday worship; he loved the Christian watch-words. Wherever he found an earnest piety, in any denomination or individual, his sympathy was elicited. He had little concern for names, but he had a very deep respect for genuine religion under any name. I am confident that this love of religion colored his whole life. It led him to a calm, strong faith; it impelled many of his actions; it helped to make that smile so often on his face. His example was Jesus Christ, to whom he looked and in whose steps he followed. In this way we account partly for his thoughtfulness of others. The true religious spirit imparts tenderness and love to our human relations. We seek to bear one another's burdens; we weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice.

A gentleness pervaded his bearing; a courtesy of manner peculiar—it is often said—to the old school of gentlemen, but ever present in substance, I believe, in every Christian gentleman. It is a beautiful trait. By it the young are made at ease, and the embarrassed grow self-possessed. Unselfishness is the root of it, the blossoms of which bear kind words and refined habits.

Our friend loved to strengthen the things that remain. His judgment was very reliable, and it derived much of its accuracy from a just estimate of the past. He was never carried away by



novelties ; the equal balance of good sense he held, so that vagaries never deceived him. He saw what all must see in the clear air of sober thought—that we build on the past. That past has elements of great power. It is our mission to save the central customs and laws and ideas of our New England history ; to build them in with new things ; to be reforming conservatives and conservative reformers.

There was one fact I admiringly saw : Mr. Spooner grew old gracefully. The last sermon he ever heard in church anywhere was one that I chanced to preach in his summer home at Petersham. It was on the subject of "Growing Old." It seemed to me that he was himself a fine illustration of my discourse. His heart remained young, his mind active, his contact with life real, his presence welcome, down to the last. "Growing old" is not acceptable to many, but it is inevitable. Happy they who find that the deepening years deepen life ; who gain from experience new sources of enjoyment.

As briefly as I could, I have sketched the leading traits in our friend's character. They stand out now for our imitation. No man's life is perfect ; I could not claim it for my subject. His own modesty would even forbid what I have spoken. I speak for the living, not to praise the dead. He has gone, but there remains an example ; it cannot be crumbled or buried. As we sum up his life on earth, our minds are impressed with the value such a character has had in the home, in the church, in the city. We see how much richer the nobler parts of society and life are because he spent his active years in our midst. Such an example also carries respect for our common human nature. He, our friend, the citizen, the humanitarian, the worshiper, by his honorable course has dignified our erring, frail manhood. It reveals possibilities. So, too, the record of his life, read in the light of this sacred hour, teaches us renewed vigilance and renewed effort. Opportunities are before us to be good and to do good. Let us improve time, and turn it into more abundant life.

A final word : Here in this church our lamented friend served as deacon ; here he regularly came to join in Sunday devotions ;

here he was loved, and here he is sincerely mourned. Offices of trust he held and honored ; many public duties he performed with distinguished ability. In many places his death will cause bereavement. But there are two places especially bereft : his home and his church. In the one he was tenderness and love inexhaustible ; in the other he was earnestness and wisdom consecrated. In the one he moved a benign and faithful husband ; in the other he served as a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We must say, Farewell ! The earth must claim its own, but not quickly will the memory of our friend pass from our minds.







## ADDRESS OF REV. A. J. GORDON, D.D.

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I GLADLY add my tribute of respect to the memory of the honored man who lies before us in the peaceful sleep of death. It has been my fortune to know him somewhat intimately during the whole period of my residence in Boston. Through the connection of his family with the church of which I am pastor, he came to be a very frequent worshiper with us on Sundays, and through my association with him in temperance work, it happened that I was a very frequent visitor at his house. From such personal acquaintance with him I can speak very strongly of his character as a good man and a true servant of God and of his generation.

I believe Mr. Spooner to have been a sincere and worthy Christian. The avowals which he constantly made of faith in Jesus Christ, and trust in him for life eternal, were explicit and strong. His practical Christianity was inspired and guided by a sincere personal faith; and while he worked, he did not neglect to pray. I rarely called upon his family without his asking that prayer should be offered with them. He would bring the Bible and place it in the hands of the minister, with the request that a portion should be read and the interests of the household presented at the throne of grace. This is a simple circumstance that indicates the devoutness of his life, and I am very sure that prayer was his habit, and not a mere casual resort. "*My Maker is my Friend*," was a favorite confession with him, and the words suggest, better than any other, his real attitude towards God. He seemed to live on friendly relations with him, and to walk in sober and righteous obedience to his will,

so far as he understood it. He was a good man and a righteous man, and left a good record among all who knew him.

His name has been most prominently identified for many years with the great cause of temperance. I cannot commend his example too highly at this point. When he had made his fortune he did not retire, as so many do, into the enjoyment of his own ease and pleasure. He remembered the great suffering, wretched world about him, and gave himself with great earnestness to its relief. He spent his time and used his money to an unusual degree in efforts to stay the tide of intemperance. He met with sore discouragements, and confessed sorrowfully, towards the end of his life, that things seemed to be "growing worse and worse." And yet he did not regard the fact as a valid reason for abandoning the work. "There is nothing to do," he said, "but to fight on till death." And he fought on, battling and testifying against the enormous evil till his tongue was silenced in the grave.

There is nothing to which his life witnesses more eloquently to-day than this—his fidelity to the right against a glaring wrong. Would that the men of his generation who are giving themselves to the support of that which he sought to destroy would listen to the witness that comes from this finished life.

And so, having served his generation, by the will of God he fell on sleep. The generation which he served says, "Well done." We sincerely trust that the Master to whom he has gone will also say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

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WILLIAM BROWN SPOONER was born at Petersham, Mass., April 20, 1806. At an early age he went to live with his uncle in Vermont. His father was an industrious and honest man; but having a large family of children, on account of his struggle to care for them all he reluctantly consented to the separation, and gave his son such counsel as this: "Only be truthful and honest, industrious and faithful, and be a cheerful worker." And his mother added: "The Bible says, 'The hand of the diligent maketh rich.'"

In his new home in Vermont he was faithful to his uncle, industrious, and a boy of strict integrity. He was beloved by his teachers in school, and a great favorite among his associates. At sixteen he was a leader in school exhibitions, which were of great profit to the scholars and pleasure to the community. He early developed a decided literary taste, and avowed a determination to secure a good education if possible. He had a pretty thorough knowledge of the tannery; but his desire for an education, to the end that he might become a lawyer, entirely possessed his mind.

At the age of seventeen he became a merchant's clerk, for the purpose of earning money that he might secure an education. His employer had quite a library, and the young man read history, biography, and science; and the remark of one who knew him intimately at this time was: "I think he is thoroughly honest and upright — just as settled to do right as he is to get an education; and that is best of all."

At the age of nineteen Mr. Spooner left the store to pursue his studies, and proved an earnest and faithful student. In the winter

he taught school, to the great acceptance of both pupils and parents.

At the age of twenty he came to Boston, and the purpose of his life was changed. It was a struggle for him to decide between the offer of Mr. Josiah M. Jones, a leather merchant, and his desire to become a lawyer. Mr. Spooner appealed to his father, but his father declined to advise him, and the self-reliant young man decided for mercantile life. He did not have money enough to purchase a new suit of clothes and other necessary articles, and was compelled to borrow ten dollars on coming to Boston.

To this city Mr. Spooner brought rectitude of character, and, possessing that, he soon won the esteem of his employer and many friends. He did not attend the theater or play billiards; with him time was more profitably employed. At his boarding-house he was active in the formation of a literary society, known as the "Five S's Society," as five of its eight members' names began with "S." This society proved beneficial in developing the natural powers of its membership, and particularly those of our friend; and fitted him for the discussions in his mercantile life and at the meetings of the Board of Trade.

At the age of twenty-five Mr. Spooner was a member of the firm of Simpkins & Spooner, leather merchants. His worth and character had been marked by one of his fellow-boarders, who had received quite a sum of money by inheritance, and a copartnership was formed with Mr. Simpkins. This continued only for two years, when his partner's health failed and he was compelled to retire from business. Mr. Spooner continued the business in his own name.

Mr. Spooner soon after formed a copartnership with Mr. Arnold, which lasted twelve years, when Mr. Spooner again for a brief time did business without a partner. There was afterward associated with him one of his clerks, Mr. Nutting. The firm of William B. Spooner & Co. continued till 1873; the last fifteen years of the same he was associated with Mr. Charles S. Butler, who is now the senior partner in the firm of Butler, Dunn & Co.

Mr. Spooner was the first president of the New England Shoe

and Leather Association. His reputation as a merchant was untarnished, and the name of William B. Spooner was a sufficient guarantee of honest dealing and integrity. For thirty-eight years he was an efficient director in the Shoe and Leather National Bank, of this city, and also for many years one of the directors of the Boston Five Cents Savings Bank, on School street. He was interested in the discussions of the Boston Board of Trade, of which he was a useful member.

He early espoused the anti-slavery cause, and in political sentiments he was an active and pronounced Republican. He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1857 and 1858 from this city.

Mr. Spooner's temperance principles were early espoused; his father was one of the few men in his native town who at the beginning of the present century renounced his drinking habits and became a temperance man. In the son's early life he saw the terrible effects of the sin, while learning his trade; and while clerk in the store in Vermont he was compelled to sell intoxicants, but he never drank himself, and at the age of twenty he declared he would never sell another drop. He was interested in the early temperance movement, and connected himself with the Massachusetts Temperance Society, and at his death was vice-president of the same. He espoused the total abstinence movement in 1833-35, and became one of its warmest champions. The Washingtonian movement found in Mr. Spooner a hearty supporter, and he was also one of the foremost men in the organization of the State Temperance Committee, which culminated in the Massachusetts Temperance Alliance in 1857. Soon after the formation of the Alliance, Mr. Spooner was elected president of the same, and resigned that office in 1869.

The reason of his leaving the Alliance was not its advocacy of prohibition, but its demand to make it the principal political issue; while Mr. Spooner believed that greater success of the prohibition movement could be secured through the instrumentality of the Republican party. From 1865 to 1870 the Alliance was at the height of its prosperity, and was a power in the State. Its membership



exerted a wide influence ; its monthly meetings were well attended by prominent citizens, and its influence extended to all parts of the Commonwealth. During the fall and winter of 1870 Mr. Spooner called together his friends from time to time to take measures to form a State Society for extending the principles and blessings of total abstinence through moral, educational, and religious agencies ; and on February 22, 1871, the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society was organized, and Mr. Spooner was chosen president — which office he held at the time of his death.

This society for two or three years struggled hard against opposition, but persistently followed its basis of action until it achieved success ; and it was the privilege of its first president to know how fully it commanded the respect of the State by its practical and persistent work. The foresight and sagacity of its president is thus seen in its strict adherence to its original policy. To this society his benefactions have always been large, and his wise counsel and honest purpose to overthrow the wrong of intemperance have ever been exhibited at its meetings.

Mr. Spooner leaves a name that is most honorable, and his career as a friend of the temperance cause is one not soon to be forgotten. In his early manhood he married a most estimable lady, who still survives. In the relation of husband he afforded a bright example ; kind, affectionate, and tender — a Christian companion. In his religious life he was a man of decided opinions, and was one of the deacons of the Second Church, Boylston street ; Rev. E. A. Horton, pastor. Mrs. Spooner is a member of the Clarendon street Baptist Church ; Rev. A. J. Gordon, D.D., pastor. Mr. Spooner lived a symmetrical life, rounded and complete in all its parts ; and the words of the Psalmist are not inappropriately applied : “Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright ; the end of that man is peace.”



## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MASS. TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

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A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, October 30, at 1 o'clock, P. M., at Room 26, Congregational House, to take such action as was appropriate on the death of the president of the society, Mr. William B. Spooner.

The following-named gentlemen were present: Hon. William Claflin, Rev. Asa Bullard, Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D., E. D. Draper, Rev. Stacy Fowler, Rev. E. S. Potter, Rev. S. W. Bush, George R. Peckham, Dr. William Wells Brown, Hon. Rufus S. Frost, Rev. L. B. Bates, Hon. E. S. Tobey, Hon. Otis Clapp, George W. Chipman, Hon. S. G. Deblois, W. H. Baldwin, Rev. Edwin Thompson, and B. R. Jewell.

The meeting was called to order by the secretary, who invited the senior vice-president, Hon. William Claflin, to occupy the chair.

On taking the chair Gov. Claflin said:

"No death has occurred since that of Deacon Grant that has been a greater loss to the cause we represent. Deacon Grant and Mr. Spooner were alike in many respects. Both men were merchants. Mr. Spooner began his mercantile life in this city as a clerk in the store of Mr. Jones, who still lives. Three years after, he commenced business as a partner in the firm of Simpkins & Spooner. In business life his name was unsullied, and he never was compelled to ask a favor of his creditors. He was firm in his convictions, and had great prudence; was never overelated, but full of courage under discouragements; and a more congenial man I never knew.

"But we knew him in a higher and nobler sense. He commenced his temperance life in his early years, and by voice and pen has ever been its true advocate. I never met a man who so thoroughly commanded universal respect. His boyhood was a struggle with poverty, his father being a poor but honorable and worthy man. He goes as a true friend and philanthropist; but his work is done, and well done."

Mr. W. H. Baldwin, being compelled to leave, briefly commended Mr. Spooner's manly character and pure morals.

Rev. S. W. Bush said that Mr. Spooner combined the rare gifts of judgment and benevolence.

Rev. Dorus Clarke, D. D., alluded to Mr. Spooner's interest in the organization of this society, and stated that, to his mind, all prohibitory success must rest on moral, educational, and religious effort

Dr. William Wells Brown spoke of Mr. Spooner's interest in the colored race, and his services in the anti-slavery reform.

Hon. E. S. Tobey remarked upon his personal loss, and the heartfelt sympathy of Mr. Spooner when he assisted a friend. His death is a loss to the community, especially in the temperance cause. He was true to his convictions, yet had great tenderness of spirit for those who disagreed with him.

Hon. S. G. Deblois alluded to his positiveness and gentleness of character.

B. R. Jewell briefly referred to his personal loss.

Rev. Edwin Thompson always knew that his name was a tower of strength.

Rev. H. A. Cooke never heard from his lips an unkind word.

Rev. E. S. Potter regarded him as a genial and wise counselor and kind friend.

Rev. L. B. Bates said Boston had no better man. The spirit of love filled his heart.

Rev. Asa Bullard said: "The more I saw of him, the better I loved him."

Hon. Otis Clapp remarked that Mr. Spooner was unpretending, kind, and remarkable for his simplicity and sobriety of character.

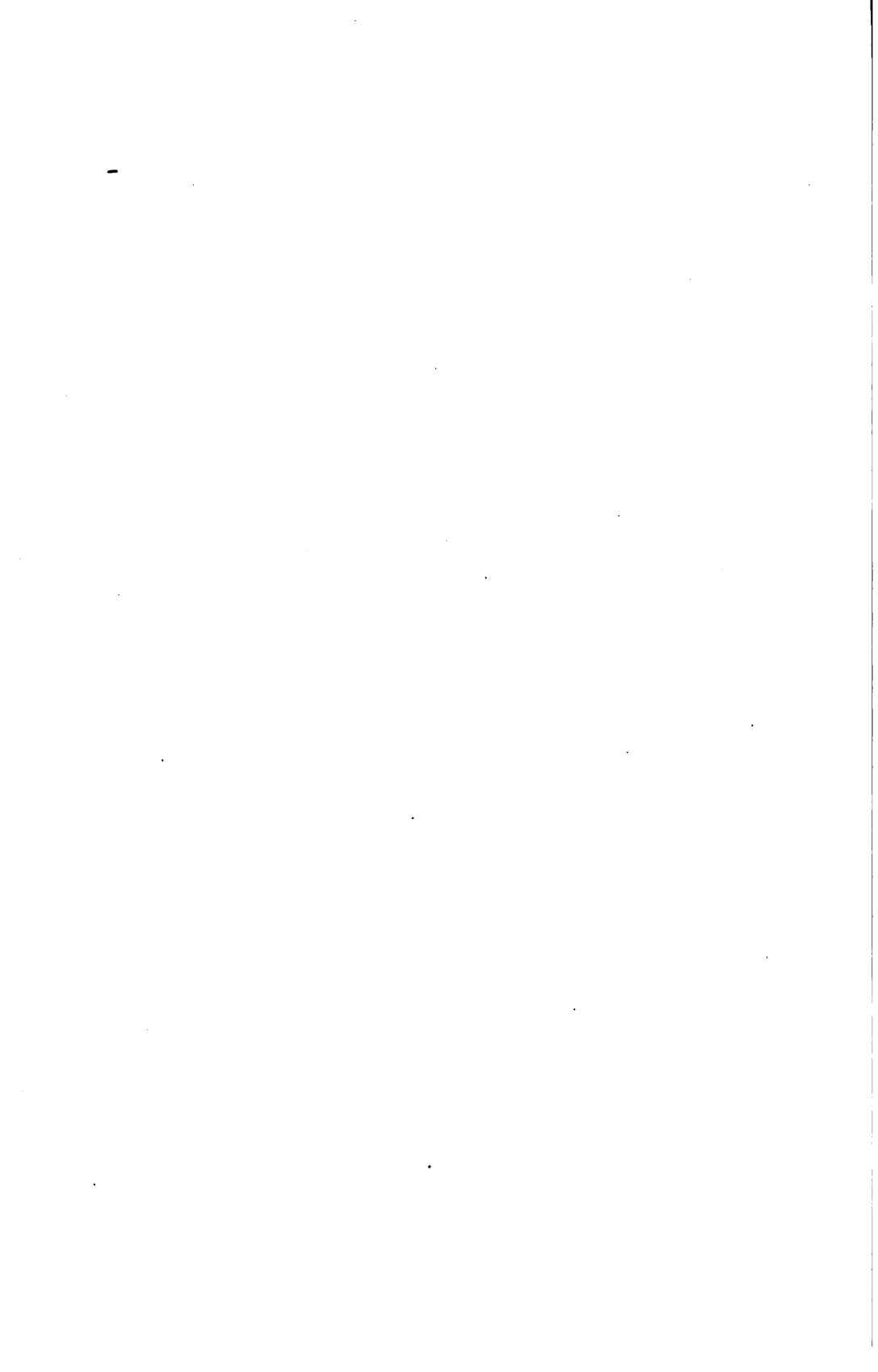
A series of resolutions was presented and unanimously adopted.

*Voted*, That, in honor of the memory of our late president, this board will attend in a body the funeral services at the Second Church, Rev. E. A. Horton, pastor, on Monday, November 1, 1880.

Gov. Claflin, in closing, said : "The good men do lives after them ; while the evil is forgotten."

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D., and Rev. Asa Bullard pronounced the benediction.







## TRIBUTE OF RESPECT, BY REV. W. M. THAYER.

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To-day we stand before a vacant chair whose mournful eloquence touches all our hearts. Its worthy occupant has passed on to that realm of immortal life, where the useful of earth become "kings and priests unto God." We gather here, his friends and associates of many years, to summon precious memories and weave them into a garland for his grave. We are not here to indulge in extravagant eulogy, inspired by personal friendship alone, but to pay an honest tribute of respect to a noble man. We knew him well. We beheld his consistent life. We felt the throbbings of his generous heart. We knew his worth. And now that the grave has closed over all of him that was mortal, we will tarry here to record our sincere appreciation of the man. An intimate acquaintance and fellowship of twenty years enables me to speak without reserve of the deceased, for whom I have ever cherished, in common with each one of you, no doubt, a profound respect.

*Invincible purpose, intellectual force, and moral principle* constituted the basis of his *character*.

Invincible purpose is indispensable to success in any pursuit or position. This quality in Mr. Spooner was directed and controlled by *singleness of aim*, and that a high and noble aim. From boyhood to manhood, from manhood to age, it was ever the same—one single, high, soul-inspiring purpose. Born in obscurity and poverty, this element of power enabled him to work his way out and up into distinction and wealth. His hardships were many, and his discouragements great; but as mountains dwindle before dauntless enterprise, so these faded before his invincible purpose. The

greater the obstacle, the stronger his purpose. Leaving his home of penury for a tan-yard when only seven years old, there he began to earn his daily bread by driving the horse in the bark-mill. His career from the tan-yard to a post of honor among the merchant princes of Boston was heroic and grand. Sometimes his way was dark and thorny. There were pitfalls to be shunned, torrents to be forded, hills to climb, rocks to leap, and reverses to encounter ; but his indomitable spirit was equal to every emergency, and bore him onward as if he were born to achieve success. The fame of many a man is heralded far and wide, whose early life possessed less genuine tact, perseverance, decision, sagacity, and unconquerable will. Around this royal trait — invincible purpose — the elements of his vigorous manhood marshaled like the heroes of war around the general who is to lead them to victory. Never were these elements of character under a more rigid discipline, and never did they respond more promptly to the demands of their possessor. So that, while his early life is written in a single line of Gray's "Elegy,"

The short and simple annals of the poor,

his later life is so full of "riches and honor," both in the secular and Scriptural sense, presenting so wide a contrast between youth and manhood, that he fairly won a place beside the self-made public benefactor,

Who breaks his birth's invidious bar,  
And grasps the skirts of happy chance,  
And breasts the blow of circumstance,  
And grapples with his evil star.

His *intellectual force* was no less remarkable than his invincible spirit. The school advantages of his boyhood were meager indeed. Ten weeks in summer and ten in winter constituted the maximum of his attendance at very poor schools, as compared with those of the present day ; and after he was ten years old, the ten weeks in winter were all that his poverty could afford, and that was continued only to fifteen years of age. Being a lad of bright intellect, and very fond of books, with these limited opportunities he never-

theless ranked high among the best of scholars. By the improvement of leisure moments, and trenching upon the legitimate hours of sleep, he made himself familiar with useful books, and stored his mind with knowledge that enriched his early manhood. When he came to Boston to reside, at twenty years of age, there were few more intelligent and well-informed clerks in the warehouses of this city, not excepting those who had been educated in the schools of this modern Athens, than he ; nor did his advent to a city of thrift and enterprise interrupt his studious habits and the improvement of leisure time. Rather, he caught fresh inspiration from the new scenes about him, to do and dare greater things in self-culture. He steadily maintained the habit of reading for fifty years, notwithstanding the pressure of a growing and thriving business. In connection with this, too, he was a very close observer of men and things, acquiring thereby a knowledge of human nature that served him well in business and other relations. There is no doubt that his discriminating observation contributed largely to his intellectual force ; perhaps even more than his acquaintance with general literature and the topics of the day. Certainly, he ranked well with the most thoughtful and talented business men of this city. He was intellectually qualified to occupy any position in public life to which business men are called. Had he possessed the aspirations of some for political preferment, his mental abilities would have proved ample to lift him into honorable fame. But he had no ambition for political life, no desire for public office ; rather he shrank from the excitement and responsibility incident to civic honors, and so was content to abide in humbler spheres. There was far more enjoyment to him in his happy home, around which the sweetest flowers of affection bloomed, perfuming the air, than in the halls of legislation or the higher arena of state. There was a charm about his home-life that furnished an explanation of his strong aversion to public service other than that which was embraced within the curriculum of his business life.

But, more than all, an *unblemished moral character* was his crowning excellence. Not a breath of suspicion ever rested upon his good name. His word was equal to his note, and his note



equal to coin. Integrity was more to him than wealth, and a fortune was secondary to a pure life. What Lord Erskine said of himself is singularly true of Mr. Spooner :

"It was a first command and counsel of my earliest youth always to do what my conscience told me to be a duty, and to leave the consequence to God. I shall carry with me the memory and, I trust, the practice of this parental lesson to the grave. I have hitherto followed it, and I have no reason to complain that my obedience to it has been a temporal sacrifice. I have found it, on the contrary, the road to prosperity and wealth."

All such pleas as "Business cannot be conducted upon the principle of strict honesty, and succeed," he repudiated as heretical and dangerous. He believed and accepted the Divine rule, "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished." He did not emblazon it upon his sign-board, nor boast of it in his conversation ; he simply lived it in his daily life. Integrity was as really a constituent part of his business as were the goods he sold. It was incorporated into the very warp and woof of his traffic. Whatever passed through his hands received the stamp of his conscience. The name, William B. Spooner, was the synonym of strict uprightness, honor, and high moral principle in commercial circles for fifty years in this city, and the universal sentiment would select for his epitaph this line from Pope :

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

A writer says : "Truthfulness, integrity, and goodness — qualities that hang not on any man's breath — form the essence of manly character ;" or, as one of our old writers has it : "That inbred loyalty unto virtue which can serve her without a livery." He who possesses these qualities, united with strength of purpose, carries with him a power which is irresistible. He is strong to do good, strong to resist evil, and strong to bear up under difficulty and misfortune. When Stephen of Colonna fell into the hands of his base assailants, and they asked him in derision, "Where is now your fortress?" "Here," was his bold reply, placing his hand upon his heart.

These words could not be more applicable to the subject of this paper if they had been written specially in his praise.

Here is found the true explanation of Mr. Spooner's interest in the anti-slavery and temperance reforms. They were *right*, in his estimation ; and that was sufficient to challenge his unfaltering support. He chose rather to be right than to be a millionaire, and he could not be right without sympathizing with the victims of oppression and the victims of intemperance. Though conservative by nature, his moral principle made him radical in action. Is it right ? was the inquiry he raised, and not, Is it profitable ? or, Is it popular ? His advocacy of the temperance cause for more than forty years in this Commonwealth is proof of his stalwart fidelity to his convictions. Through evil report and good report, though oftener the former, he maintained his allegiance to this necessary reform. His money, time, and large influence were given to it liberally. He worked for it, wrote for it, spoke for it, and prayed for it. Always independent in his thoughts and actions, as men of real principle ever are, he did not agree sometimes with his co-workers respecting measures adopted ; but whether he agreed with them or not, the same steady, unselfish, and resolute defense of the temperance cause marked his course. Though saying less than some others for the reform, he was a great power in its advancement. His large contributions of money did much, but his personal character did more. Beginning his active service in the cause under such gifted leaders as Beecher, Pierpont, Sargent, Channing, Gannett, and other moral and intellectual giants, he caught their spirit of devotion in the outset, and carried it with him to the end. In his life the temperance reform had a noble championship, and in his death the cause has experienced an irreparable loss.

In his character, too, we discover the reason of his deep interest in every work of philanthropy. His sincere benevolence touched every spring of charitable enterprise in this city. Dispensers of timely aid to the sick, suffering, and poor understood that his purse was always, like his heart, open. The "little wanderers" felt the throb of his tender spirit ; and the abode of want smiled its welcome to his generous benefactions. Could we gather the hearty

tributes of men and women who have shared his kind assistance, and add to that the story of relieved distress in homes that he caused to sing for joy, this alone would be a great and fitting eulogy for this hour.

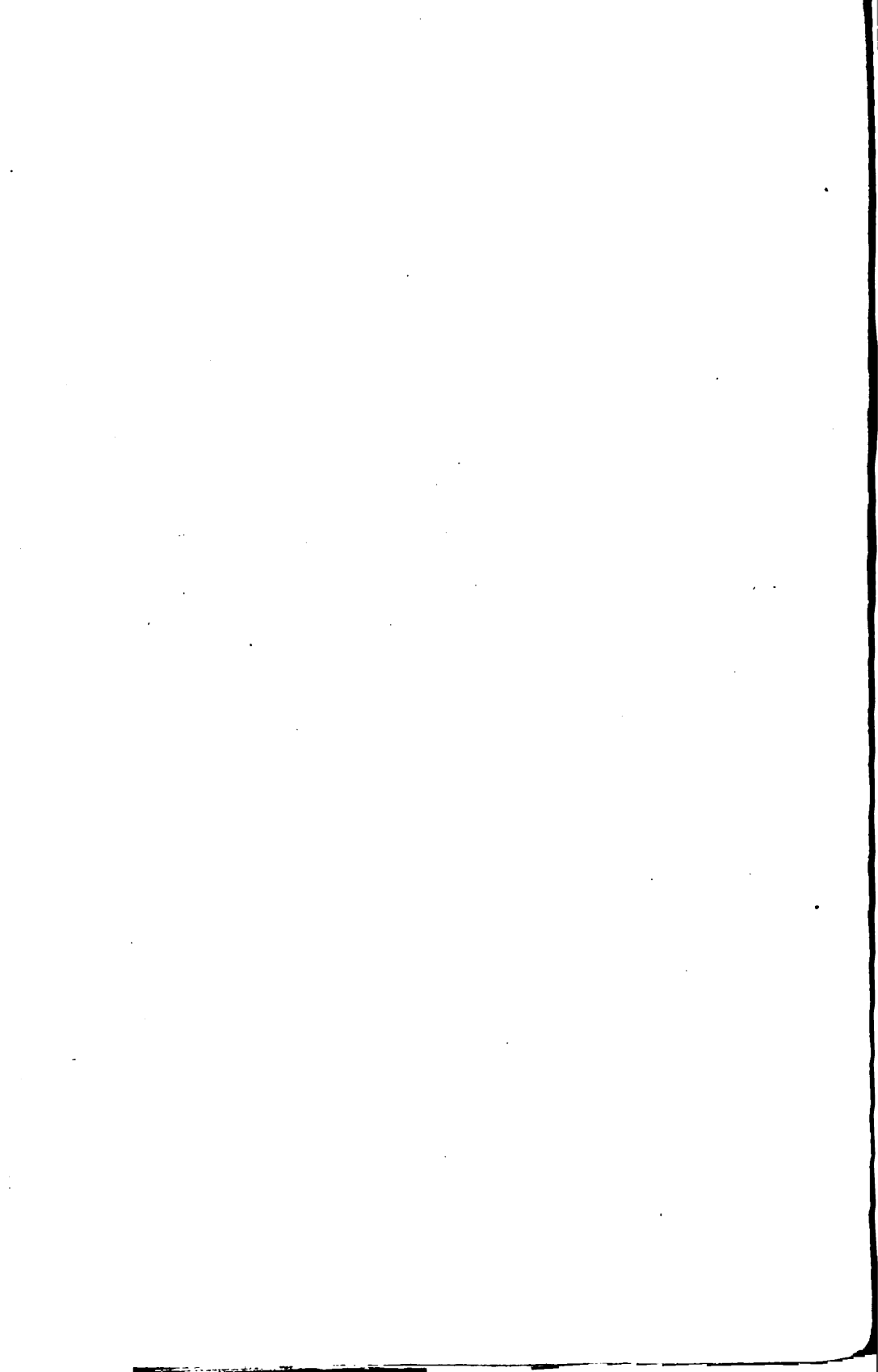
Three years ago I was told of an old man, of foreign birth, earning his scanty living by selling nicknacks at the corner of Washington street and Temple place. My informant said: "Thirty years ago he was a porter in Mr. Spooner's warehouse. Passing the old man one day, whose white locks and wrinkled face showed that he had traveled far by the three-score years and ten, I stopped and inquired: 'Do you know Mr. William B. Spooner?' The old man's face lit up with a luster I shall never forget, as he answered, 'Know him? I can never forget him; no such man in Boston.' And then the grateful Irishman went on with a touching story of help when his children were young, many years ago, and sickness joined with poverty to make his hard lot harder, and his poor home poorer. It was such an honest eulogy as kings and potentates might well be proud of. I passed on, musing whether, after all, the greatest man and the best man is not he who enshrines his name in the hearts of the poor and lowly."

The tanner boy who works his way from the obscurest country home to the highest eminence of business life in this metropolis, dispensing several hundred thousand dollars during his life-time in noble charities, and leaving a large fortune when he dies, is no common man. He is a public benefactor, a true philanthropist, an example to the young men of the land. And this leads me to add that no class in mercantile life interested Mr. Spooner more than young men. There are living in this city business men who owe their success and present standing, as well as their wealth, to his wise counsels and generous help to their worthy ambition. He remembered the rock out of which he himself was hewn; and the memory of it impelled him toward young men. It afforded him the highest pleasure to give the worthy young man a chance to achieve success.

Our friend and co-worker has passed on; but he has left us a richer legacy than his wealth — his *character*. This we can cherish

and emulate so long as we live. It will never be worth less to us and to the world than it is now. It will ever illustrate the truth, "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely." It should be, not only a possession, but an inspiration, leading to higher aims, better service, and larger results. Lord John Russell once said, "It is the nature of party in England to ask the assistance of men of genius, but to follow the guidance of men of character." It is equally the fact in America; and thereby this legacy from our departed friend becomes greater. Followed while he lived, may his following be even greater now that he is dead, and his memory embalmed in many, many hearts.







## ADDRESSES AT THE WASHINGTONIAN HOME.

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BY HON. OTIS CLAPP.

Within a brief period we have been called upon to recognize the departure by death of four of the original members of the corporation of the Washingtonian Home, viz.: Messrs. Moses Mellen, Albert Fearing, Franklin Snow, and Daniel Allen.

We have assembled on this occasion to pay our respects to the memory of another, viz.: Mr. William B. Spooner, who was one of the original founders of this institution in 1859, when it was organized under an act of the legislature; and also of a preliminary association, which preceded and led to this organization.

Mr. Spooner began life in moderate circumstances, both as regards pecuniary means and intellectual acquirements. But such were his habits of life in industry, temperance, frugality, and in the acquirement of useful knowledge, that he soon became a student; a close, deep, and a coherent thinker — not perhaps in general literature and the arts, but on the principles of finance and of business, in their connection with morals and the growth and prosperity of the community.

He believed in the Supreme Being, the Creator, as the sovereign of the universe; in the first and great Commandment, to love the Lord with all the heart, and the neighbor as himself. His idea of the "measure of a man" was that which is based upon the divine standard. His intuitions looked to the power above and within him. Here is to be found the power that is always safe and reliable.

Science is defined as: First, knowledge; penetrating and com-

prehensive information ; skill, etc. Second, the comprehension and understanding of truth or facts. Third, truth ascertained. Fourth, knowledge duly arranged. Coleridge speaks of Shakespeare's deep and accurate science in mental philosophy. Dryden says, "Science perfects genius." All these, separate or combined, will not make a first-class man of business. The collective body of literary and scientific productions, embracing the entire results of knowledge, will not make a thorough financier or a thorough man of business. It is the *knowledge and its application combined* that make it a success. These Mr. Spooner possessed in a remarkable degree. His perceptions, in his line of thought, seemed intuitive. Through these he obtained wealth, and also diffused it. His sympathies were moved in the direction of "necessity and mercy." This is shown by the fact that over \$300,000 of his earnings have been contributed in this direction.

Is it not supposable that Mr. Spooner's clearness of insight was largely owing to his spotless integrity? Is not this view authenticated by this passage of Scripture? — "A good understanding have all they who *do* his commandments."

Mr. Spooner was intensely earnest in the pursuit of truth and right ; and when his understanding and conscience were satisfied, he was firm as a rock. It is qualities like these that give clearness of judgment and stability of character ; for the reason that men and women thus become recipients of the divine life which the Lord is waiting to give them.

Mr. Spooner is only a representative man of what the Lord has in store for those who consecrate their lives and labors to his cause. If you, or I, or others, have gifts of any kind, we have only to consecrate them to the Lord's service, when our faculties will be filled with good intentions, and the way will be opened for these intentions to go forth into acts and do the work for which they were made.

In the life of Mr. Spooner we seem to have a type, or model, of the most elevating qualities. This was shown in his relations as merchant, banker, financier, and in all the relations of public and private life ; a warm and genial friend and neighbor, whose pres-

ence was a benediction, because it seemed in all its aims to lift humanity into higher spheres. Happy will it be for us if his place can be made good.

The Psalmist says, God rained down manna and the corn of heaven, and gives to man angels' food. This he lets fall in the midst of their camp, and round about their habitations, so that they may eat and be filled. In Mr. Spooner's life we have an example of how the faculties, which are gifts from the same source, may be so adjusted as to realize the same conditions. It is for each one to measure these gifts, and to seek for a share.

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BY MR. WILLIAM WILKINS WARREN.

Mr. President: I feel impelled to add my testimony to what has been so well said of the character of our lamented friend. It has been my privilege to have known him, not so long as my friend Thompson, but for the period of over thirty years, more in a private and social way than in public life. It was during our summer sojourn at Lynn, in the early part of that period, that we often met him, with his amiable wife and mutual acquaintances, among the society of Friends, for whom he had a strong congeniality. One of these — a very influential citizen of that city — he appointed one of his executors in his will.

Our families have often met at home and in traveling, and we were always impressed with his uniformly amiable and gentle deportment. On the subject of intemperance he was very tolerant, and well calculated to draw, more than repel, those who differed from him on its treatment. I remember at a picnic party, many years ago, on the border of a beautiful lake in the vicinity of Lynn, that I received an impressive lesson on total abstinence from intoxicating drinks from his example. Our company was a joyous one, and nearly all partook of a light alcoholic beverage; but the way and manner in which Mr. Spooner declined even a taste of it, while



enjoying the entertainment equally with the others, was a forcible example, well set.

Mr. Spooner fully believed in and practiced, the principle of individual responsibility, a principle so important in all reforms. A story is told of a husband who was complaining to his wife of the short-comings and misdoings of a certain society. The wife, after listening to him awhile, asked him if he was a member of it ; to which he replied, he was. Then she said, he was in part responsible, and he had better try and reform it, instead of complaining.

Mr. Spooner's generosity and benevolence extended to all classes and institutions, and his deeds were cheerfully done, without ostentation. His works are his best eulogy.





## REMINISCENCES OF WILLIAM B. SPOONER.

BY REV. EDWIN THOMPSON.

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William B. Spooner has been a leading man in the temperance cause in Massachusetts for many years. There are but few temperance men living who started with him in the temperance reform. As far as I know, there are now but two men living in Boston, active in the temperance cause, who commenced its advocacy with him — Otis Clapp and Alvin Simonds. He came to Boston fifty-four years ago, and early identified himself with reformatory and religious movements, in connection with such men as William Ellery Channing, Horace Mann, Moses Grant, Francis Wayland, Lyman Beecher, Amasa Walker, Samuel A. Walker, John C. Warren, Ellis G. Loring, and other representative men of the past. He was a member of the Young Men's Temperance Society of Boston when it was presided over by the late Richard Fletcher. He was a delegate to the Young Men's Temperance Convention at Worcester in 1834, of which Horace Mann was president. Many of the delegates to that convention subsequently ranked among the most distinguished citizens. This convention adopted the principle of total abstinence, and really accepted all the prominent and indisputable measures that temperance societies have advocated since that day. Even the work among the children, and the agency and influence of women in the temperance cause, were fully vindicated in that convention.

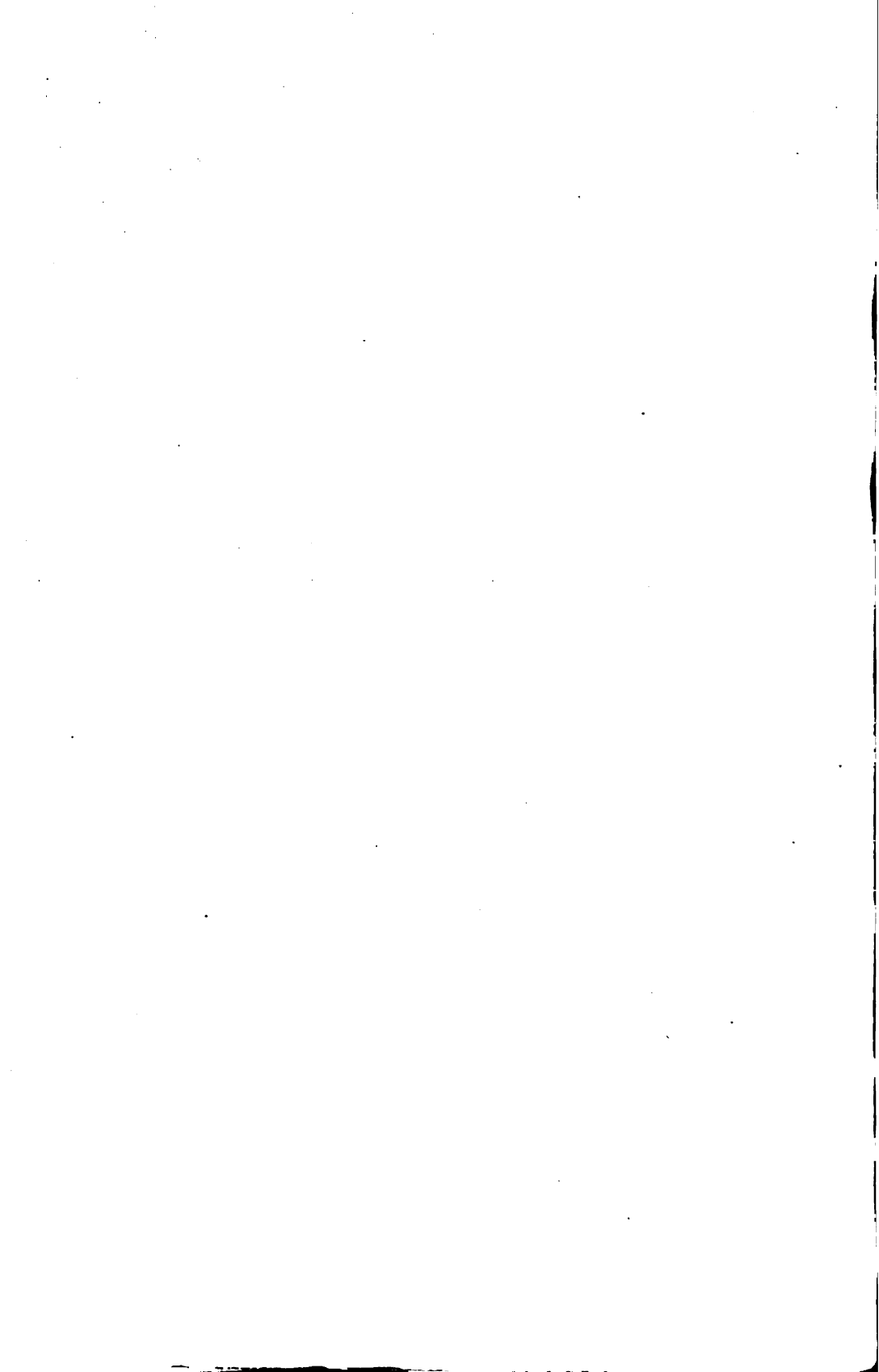
Mr. Spooner was one of the men who took part in the great temperance celebration in Faneuil Hall on the Fourth of July, 1839. He was connected, also, with the early Washingtonian movement, and had the management of the celebrated John Hawkins's lectures in this State. No man among the business men of Boston so generally shared the confidence of reformed men during the seventeen years the movement existed. He was one of the most active workers in the State Temperance Convention at Worcester, in 1851, to organize the Maine law campaign. He was elected one of the executive committee of nine to get up the monster petition of one hundred and seventy-five thousand names, resulting in an interest so deep as to extend to every part of the State. Under the influence of this committee immense meetings were held, especially of the children, from Cape Cod to Berkshire. This organization continued until it culminated in the formation of the State Alliance, in 1857. After Asabel Huntington had served as president of the Alliance a brief period, Mr. Spooner was called to the chair of the society, which he filled for twelve years. Under his management the funds of the society increased to sixteen thousand dollars annually, of which he paid one sixteenth part. We had then a good understanding with the temperance people in nearly every town in the State. His interest in the cause did not depend upon his being president of the Alliance, for he told me that if Oliver Ames could be persuaded to take the office, he would contribute fifteen hundred dollars annually to its funds instead of one thousand. Mr. Spooner was always opposed to a separate prohibitory political party, agreeing in this with the large majority of prohibitionists in the State. He was never dictatorial in all his connection with the Alliance. Although knowing that Mr. Thayer and myself were more radical than he, he preferred that we should pursue our convictions. He was not only a large contributor to the Alliance and the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society, but also to the Home for Little Wanderers, reform clubs, Friendly Inns, Woman's Union, and every other benevolent institution suited to benefit the needy and suffering classes. John Tappan gave twenty thousand dollars to the temperance reform in his day, but Mr. Spooner must have given forty thousand.

Mr. Spooner also espoused the anti-slavery cause in early life, and was a great admirer of William Lloyd Garrison. He identified himself with the so-called Free-Soil party, and afterwards the Republican party, in which he was deeply interested at the time of his death. Mr. Spooner was a Unitarian of the Dr. Channing school, but entirely unsectarian ; so much so that he was a large contributor to the Clarendon Street Baptist Church, with which his wife was connected.

An incident illustrates Mr. Spooner's integrity and high standing in business circles. A customer told him that a lot of hides he bought shrunk considerably. Mr. Spooner inquired of his partner and clerks whether that might not be so, and was told that it might. "I will make it right," said Mr. Spooner, "and will leave it out to any two men." "I will leave it to one man — William B. Spooner," replied the customer. This fact was given to me by an officer of a Boston bank a few years since.

When Mr. Spooner came to Boston, at twenty years of age, he was enrolled in the militia, according to the custom of that day ; but he was too poor to hire a gun, to say nothing of buying one, and so he evaded the officer. The fact that he contributed several hundred thousand dollars to benevolent objects while he lived, and left a fortune when he died, is sufficient to show young men the sort of stuff of which he was made. Through his long business career not a stain ever rested upon his name, and he was never charged with doing a mean or dishonest thing. His benefactions were not limited to benevolent societies, but he gave many thousands of dollars to relatives and friends, making them all comfortable. I shall never forget his personal kindness ; neither could any of us forget that ringing laugh of his that added interest to every meeting he attended.

In my connection for over forty years with the anti-slavery, temperance, and religious movements, I have never known a more honorable and high-minded man ; worthy, as I believe, to be ranked with Amos Lawrence, William Jackson, Daniel Safford, Edward Delevan, and many others, whose lives made the world better.





## NEW ENGLAND SHOE AND LEATHER ASSOCIATION.

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*[Abstract of proceedings, October 30, 1880.]*

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### REMARKS OF GEN. AUGUSTUS P. MARTIN.

Gen. Augustus P. Martin, the President of the Association, called the meeting to order, and spoke as follows :

"It becomes my melancholy duty to announce to you the death of William B. Spooner. He died at his residence in this city, on Thursday evening, the 28th inst., after a very painful illness. . . .

"At the age of twenty-four years he commenced business on his own account, and from that time till January 1, 1874, covering a period of nearly a half a century, he was actively engaged in mercantile pursuits.

"With the exception of two years' service in the State legislature, he never held any political office, but was always one of the most active and zealous workers in all philanthropic and benevolent institutions. . . .

"He was a United States Commissioner for the State of Massachusetts to the Centennial Exhibition, in which he took a deep interest and to which he devoted much of his time and services.

"Mr. Spooner was one of the pioneers of the trade in which we are engaged, and until the date of his retirement from active business he was one of its most successful and useful members.

"He was not only prominently identified with the trade, which

he was largely instrumental in creating and building up, through his clear and penetrating sagacity, but when it became necessary to form an association which would enable the trade in all of its branches to act in concert upon questions of public interest, he was selected as the first president of our association, and gave to it the benefit of his large experience, his wise counsel, and his liberal support. . . .

"I have known him so as to appreciate fully his kind and generous disposition ; the honest and inflexible purpose of his nature, by which he so justly acquired the reputation of a pure and generous, an upright and honest man, and has thereby furnished to the world an example of real Christian virtues, which he habitually practiced throughout the progress of a most exemplary life."

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REMARKS OF HON. EDWARD H. DUNN.

Hon. Edward H. Dunn, after giving a brief sketch of his business career, said :

"It is well for us to leave for an hour the business and struggles in which we daily engage, and to contemplate the simple grandeur of the life of the noblest work of God — an honest man ; of a life which, while engaged in the busy pursuits of trade, was devoted to acts of benevolence, and charity, and of love. But the purpose of this meeting needs no commendation ; it carries with it its own justification, and even praise. Mr. Spooner always had a great sense of the responsibility of life, and often expressed his desire so to live that he might attain as near as possible a perfect character. You who shared with him the sympathies which similarity of age only gives, can bear just testimony to his worth. You could not do otherwise than cherish for him respect and love. Between you and him no rivalry, no bitterness, existed. The strong, noble, and ambitious impulses that inspire the heart never swayed him to injustice, nor led him to wound your feelings, nor to trample on your interests to promote his own. In the midst of the

engrossing cares of a long business life he found time to acquire much valuable knowledge, that rendered his society pleasing and profitable. His excellent judgment, varied knowledge of men and books, his quiet and dignified demeanor, his peculiar faithfulness in the discharge of all the duties assumed, rendered him well calculated for positions of trust and responsibility. When this association was formed, the question was asked in the committee, on its organization, Whom shall we select for our first president? Gov. Claflin answered by saying, 'Let us select the best man in the trade; that man is William B. Spooner.' How ably and faithfully he discharged his duties as its first officer, its present usefulness and success is a witness. For thirty-eight years Mr. Spooner was a most faithful and efficient director in the Shoe and Leather Bank, where, by his pleasant smile, kind words, and kindly greetings, he won the hearts of his associates, who to-day mourn his loss as a brother beloved. Mr. Spooner has filled many positions of honor and trust in the nation, State, and city, all of which bear witness to the faithful discharge of duty. Mr. Spooner had a stainless reputation, and an integrity which, amid the swaying interests and perilous exigencies of trade, might be pronounced incorruptible. The perception of his own advantage did not prevent the clear discernment of others' rights. He was true to himself, his conscience, his neighbor, and his God. As a Christian merchant, an honorable member of an honorable profession, it is probable he exercised as extensive an influence for good as if he had followed the calling he would have chosen in early life. Blessed are the righteous dead! Blessed is he whose death is the occasion of our present mourning; and, though dead, the power of his living influence still remains. In that high and holy place whither he has gone, he remembers his associates in the busy walks of life, and calls to them to struggle on, still faithful to their trust, seeking not merely that which perisheth, but a crown of life that fadeth not away."



## HON. JOHN CUMMINGS

said that it was well to pause for an hour to take action on the death of such a man. What was it that made William B. Spooner's life one of purity? It was truthfulness. He obtained an enviable reputation as a merchant. He had positive opinions. He did not hide his thoughts. He had convictions upon which the whole character of the man was founded. It would prove a lasting benefit to those who are younger to follow his steps.

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## ADDRESS OF CHARLES S. BUTLER.

Mr. Butler, the successor of Mr. Spooner, made the following remarks:

"I should fail to do justice to my own feelings if I did not say a few words on this occasion. I have known our esteemed friend, now passed away, for more than thirty years; more than twenty of them associated with him in business as boy, clerk, salesman, and about fifteen years as partner. Mr. Spooner was an honest man. In all my associations with him, I can truly say I never knew him to try to overreach, take advantage, misrepresent, or do any of those things to which the temptation is so great in the extreme competition of these later days. Mr. Spooner was in every sense a true man, always fulfilling to the letter his promises. He has often said to me that it was one of the most satisfactory things in his business experience that he was permitted to look back upon, that he had always been able to meet all his obligations at maturity in full. He was a successful man. Without an ambition to be very rich, he acquired a competency early in life, and from that time took life comparatively easy; twice visiting Europe — once in 1852 and again in 1860 — for pleasure, though to some extent combining business with it.

"Mr. Spooner was truly a benevolent man. From my earliest acquaintance with him I have known a great deal of his charities.

As you all know, he was an earnest temperance man, and for many years during his more vigorous manhood gave a great deal of time, advocating the cause by public addresses and otherwise.

"To this cause he also contributed very largely. Before my acquaintance with him, Deacon Moses Grant was his earnest co-laborer in this cause. He was truly (and I know of no man of whom it could be more truthfully said) the 'friend of the poor.'

"For many years his charities to the poor have been numerous, and many, very many, poor people will have occasion to lament his departure; for in him they had a true friend, benevolent to their wants, charitable almost to blindness to their faults, tender and sympathetic toward their weaknesses and complaints. Mr. Spooner was not sectarian, and his contributions were free and generous to all good causes. While I have never known of any large donations, the aggregate of his benevolent and charitable contributions (during his life) reaches, I am safe in saying, at least three hundred thousand dollars."

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REMARKS OF JOHN B. ALLEY.

William B. Spooner is no more; a name prominently associated with the hide and leather trade in this city for nearly fifty years, without stain or reproach—the synonym of all that is good and great in an eminent merchant. It was my privilege to know Mr. Spooner intimately for more than thirty years. I knew him well as a merchant forty years ago. I subsequently knew him as a public speaker and writer of no mean pretensions, in advocacy of the great doctrines of civil and religious liberty. Upon the organization of the Free Soil party, in 1848, he became an ardent advocate of "free soil, free speech, and free men." He was the friend and associate of Chas. Sumner, Henry Wilson, and many other distinguished men of Massachusetts, who inaugurated the Free Soil movement in this State, and with them carried it forward to its culmination in the formation of the Republican party, and the final overthrow of American slavery. Wise in counsel, prudent in action, he

was relied and leaned upon by his associates and friends, in the conduct of great reforms in politics and temperance, as upon a pillar of immovable strength. From early boyhood to aged manhood, with meager advantages in early life, he was constant in the pursuit of knowledge and the improvement of his mind. Few men in the business world, under such adverse circumstances, have conducted such large business operations, and at the same time acquired so much of mental and moral culture as he did. But he has gone from among men. Yes, he has fallen at last, as the ripe oak falls in the stillness of the forest. "One generation passeth away and another generation cometh." So it hath always been, and so it will ever be until time shall be no more. He was a great friend of the young, and an affectionate adviser on all points wherein inexperienced youth might require counsel. He was upright and honorable in all the relations of life. He was a friendly man; he was a thoughtful and considerate man. He had firm convictions, but was always willing to treat with the fullest consideration the opinions of others who differed from him. The tendency of his whole life-work was good.

In the language of another, "Such is the faint outline of the record of a life, not so brilliant, indeed, as some that flash their light across the age in which they live, but so useful, so practical, so devoted to everything that could aid, prosper, and foster all the best interests of the community in which he lived, that it is more than doubted whether any better model of a life well spent and duty well done can be held up for the closest imitation of those who may come after him."

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ADDRESS OF BENJAMIN E. COLE.

Mr. Cole said that by the inherent power which Mr. Spooner possessed he had made a reputation which all might be proud to possess. Mr. Cole made his acquaintance, and for many years, in his family and social relations, had known him. He had also sat with him for a number of years as director of one of our banks.

"I loved and revered him. He acted from principle, and to say that his word was as good as his bond does not half express the truth. He could do no other than a right deed. 'Honesty is the best policy' was his motto, and the idea that trickery and chicanery is the best course is wrong. Mr. Spooner gave away during his life hundreds of thousands of dollars. He scattered joy and happiness over the pathway of the poor and unfortunate, and many will regret his departure. He had convictions of right, and when he had formed an opinion he clung to it with tenacity. Yet he was tender of the opinions of others, and never forced his own on them. He was charitable, and would never injure the feelings of the young. He saw the ruin and devastation that intemperance was causing, and he gave much money to the cause of temperance. He never wavered, but pursued the right as he saw it. You all knew him, loved, and appreciated him. For more than half a century he has gone in and out before you; and let us all imbibe his virtues, so that, when our turn shall come, our names shall be as highly mentioned and cherished as his."

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REMARKS OF C. J. BISHOP.

Your President has asked me to say a word at this meeting, and although I feel keenly my inability to say what ought to be said, the privilege of saying what I can is too grateful to be declined. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Spooner quite well for many years, and in speaking of him here I feel that we may speak freely, having no reservations to be careful about, or faults to deduct from his virtues. That he had faults we cannot doubt, because they are the common lot of human nature; but what his were I have never discovered. He was a successful man in the best sense of the word; not only pecuniarily, but in the building up, on the solid foundation of Christian morality, a strong, symmetrical manhood—a character worthy of our study and emulation. He early had very strong convictions in regard to the duties and responsibilities of life, and from these convictions there was devel-

oped a strong and harmonious moral nature. He was honest with himself, loyal to his own convictions, and out of this development of right principles within has come honesty and justice to all with whom he had business relations. This moral power was always at work in him, and was characteristic of him, and gave great weight and force to his opinions and actions, and great clearness to his judgment. He was full of sympathy for everybody in distress, and every good cause that satisfied his judgment commanded his generous support. He is best known as a public man, perhaps, by his consistent and persistent work in the cause of temperance. The good influence of his life in every direction will continue. We who knew him well will never forget the pleasant expression of his face, or the kindness and urbanity of his manner, all of which marked him as a true Christian gentleman.

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SPEECH OF DAVID L. WEBSTER.

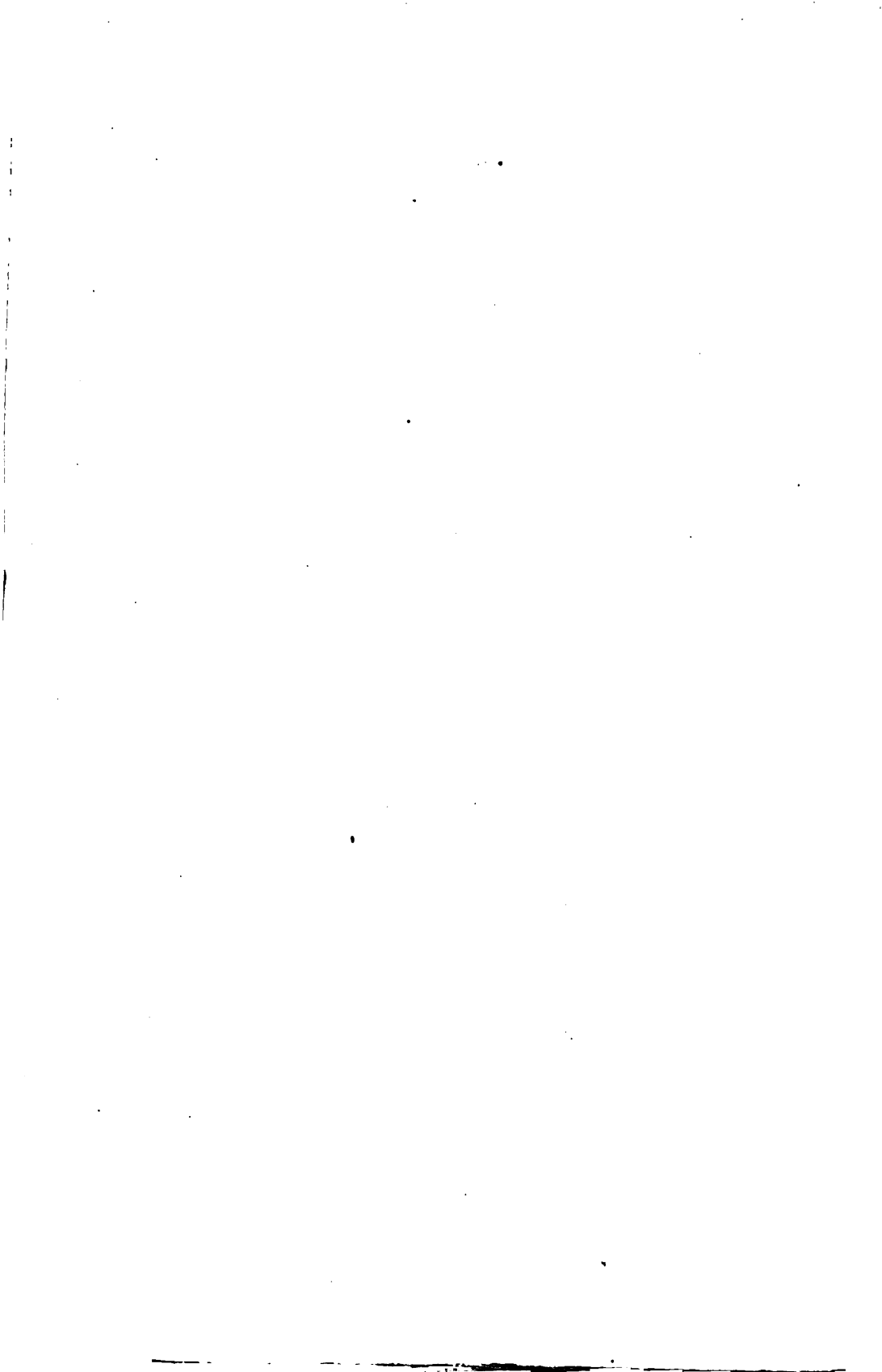
We meet here to-day to commemorate the life and work of one of the oldest and most respected members of this association and of the trade. He has led an active and useful life. We have much cause for thankfulness and congratulation, that such a man as Mr. Spooner has proved himself to be has been brought up and educated in our trade. No one could come into his presence without realizing that he was a man of warm heart and of extraordinary ability; and no one could enter into negotiations with him without feeling sure that he did not wish to consummate a trade unless he felt that it would prove mutually advantageous to all parties engaged in the transaction. You could always depend on him not to misrepresent any article in which he dealt.

It has been well said that he was a charitable man, and doubtless many persons will miss the liberal hand with which he dealt out his benefactions. This must be so, for it is the natural consequence of doing good to the neighbor by means of what is good and just in the business and work in which one is engaged and in his relations with those with whom he has dealings. The man who

thus practices charity, as did Mr. Spooner, becomes (in the language of a distinguished philosopher of the last century) "charity in form more and more, for justice and faithfulness form his mind, and their exercise forms his body." Everybody who knew Mr. Spooner will agree that he was such a form of charity. He did not regard the benefactions of which he was the almoner as meritorious, and do them for the sake of the praise of men, but he regarded himself as a trustee of the mental ability and material property with which he was endowed, and in dispensing his charities he only asked how he could dispense them where they would be most useful. Thus, we do not find Mr. Spooner dealing out his property ostentatiously, that men may honor him, but diligently and quietly dispensing a little here, and a larger amount there, in accordance with the will of the Master who made the endowment. He has now left the scene of his earthly labors, and we naturally feel a sorrow that we are to see his genial face and hear his kindly greeting no more in this world; but there is another side to this picture, for we have every reason to believe, while we mourn his loss here, that he is being welcomed in the most kindly and gentle manner by those kind friends who have gone before him to the other world, and that, having shuffled off this mortal coil, he will, with renewed vigor, enter into the active uses for which his career in this world has so admirably fitted him.

W. E. Plummer said that so much had been said, and so well said, he could add but little. In Mr. Spooner's active life there was never a man who took him by the hand but had felt the electricity of his kind nature. He was also fond of fun. He was a man of strong temperance convictions. He was like the late Hon. Henry Poor in his many noble deeds and traits of character, and the business community has suffered a great loss.

A series of resolutions of respect offered by Hon. Edward H. Dunn were unanimously adopted.





## RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

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### MASSACHUSETTS TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

*Whereas*, We have received with the most profound sorrow the announcement of the death of our late president, William B. Spooner, which took place, after a painful illness, Thursday evening, October 28, 1880, at his residence, No. 80 Boylston street, this city; therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the death of Mr. William B. Spooner, the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society has lost its first and only president, a consistent friend, and a liberal benefactor; and that to Mr. Spooner more than to any other individual does this society owe its existence. Ten years since, he perceived that the triumph of the cause of temperance must rest primarily upon educational, moral, and religious influences; and upon that basis he and other friends of the cause organized the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society, which has firmly adhered to its original principles, and now commands the favor of the friends of temperance in the State.

*Resolved*, That we record our appreciation of the many virtues by which his life became so useful and honored, for that remarkable union of benevolence and judgment which made him the helper of the needy, the steadfast friend, the sagacious and upright merchant, the wise adviser, the true philanthropist, and the devout Christian.

*Resolved*, That, by his long life of private charity and public service, he has given to our young men an illustrious example of upright conduct in business, large benevolence, and true Christian consecration.



*Resolved*, That we would express to his family our heartfelt sympathy in this hour of bereavement and sorrow, and would seek with them the consolations of that religion in which he had such strong and vital faith.

*Voted*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family as a token of our sympathy in their great bereavement.

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NEW ENGLAND SHOE AND LEATHER ASSOCIATION.

*Whereas*, It has pleased Almighty God to remove by the hand of death our esteemed friend and associate, William B. Spooner ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the New England Shoe and Leather Association in his death has lost one of its oldest and most efficient officers ; the hide and leather trade has lost one of its most honored members, who for forty-seven years was a prominent and, for the most part of that time, one of the foremost members of our trade ; a man of unflinching integrity, of unblemished honor, of exalted purpose, whose fidelity to principle, allegiance to truth, and cultivation of Christian graces, exemplify in his life the virtues which constitute the career of a good citizen and a Christian philanthropist. An earnest advocate of every worthy enterprise, the zealous promoter of many measures for the comfort and improvement of his fellow-beings, a wise and sagacious business man, a liberal giver of the means which Providence had placed in his hands, and a sympathizing friend and associate, he was an honor to the trade of which he was for so many years a member.

*Resolved*, That in the death of William B. Spooner the community at large has lost a public-spirited, patriotic, and influential citizen, and his numerous personal friends one whose honorable career and warm and genial nature commanded their veneration and love, and whose presence among them was always a benediction ; one who in his daily walk and conversation illustrated the virtues that command our esteem, that conduce to the welfare and

advancement of our common humanity, that eminently provoke to good works.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to represent this association at the funeral of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be entered upon the records of the association, and a copy be sent to the family of the deceased, with an expression of our heartfelt sympathy in this their great bereavement.

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SHOE AND LEATHER BANK.

The board of directors of the Shoe and Leather Bank, of which he was a member, adopted the following resolutions :

*Resolved*, That we have learned, with the deepest sorrow, of the death of our esteemed associate, William B. Spooner, for more than thirty-eight years an active director in this bank.

*Resolved*, That we shall always cherish in our memories the recollection of his character as marked by ripe judgment, an earnest regard for the best interests and prosperity of the bank, courtesy and kindness in his intercourse with all, and a uniform exhibition of all the generous and manly traits of an upright, accomplished Christian gentleman. For more than fifty years a Boston merchant, his cotemporaries have never failed to find him ready in every good work, whether of a public or private character, witnessing thereby an unvarying and conscientious devotion to the best interests of humanity, religion, and the State.

*Resolved*, That the board, with the cashier, will attend the funeral services of their colleague, and publish these resolutions.

*Resolved*, That the same be entered upon the records of the bank, and a copy sent to the widow of our friend and associate, with the tender of our unfeigned and hearty sympathy in her deep affliction and irreparable loss.

## MASSACHUSETTS TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

It having pleased God to remove by death our late associate, William B. Spooner, we cannot allow the occasion to pass without recording our appreciation, in common with the many who, knowing, loved and honored him, of his many excellencies and his useful services to his fellow-men. Quick in his perception of the ills and necessities of suffering humanity, and judicious in detecting their source and planning for their relief, his sympathetic and generous nature made him ever ready with kind words, liberal gifts, and more costly personal efforts. Many have found in him a faithful friend, a judicious counselor, and a willing benefactor; while large numbers personally unknown to him have shared in the blessing following his earnest endeavors to protect society from the evil examples and influences connected with what Bishop Potter calls "the drinking usages of society."

Sorrowing that we shall see his face no more on earth, but rejoicing that while he rests from his labors his works do follow him, we bow in submission to the Divine will, praying that other philanthropists may arise to take his place in a long succession of those to whom our Lord shall say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

May his blessing rest upon the life-long companion of our departed friend, sharer not only in his joys and sorrows, but in his sympathies and benefactions; to whom we tender our heartfelt condolence in this great bereavement.

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BALDWIN PLACE HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS.

*Whereas*, In the inscrutable but all-wise providence of God, our beloved friend and late associate, William B. Spooner, an original member of this board, has been removed by death,

*Resolved*, That in the death of Mr. Spooner we have experi-

enced a sad personal bereavement, this board has lost a wise counselor and an earnest co-worker, the institution under our care a steadfast friend and liberal contributor to its support, and the children gathered at the Home one who always felt for them a tender sympathy.

*Resolved*, That throughout his long, successful, and benevolent life, we recognize the fact that he was governed by sacred religious principle, and that his pure character and noble philanthropy was the natural outgrowth of his Christian faith. While the death of such a man is a public loss, we feel that the influence for good of such a life ought not, and cannot, die.

*Resolved*, That we express our sincere sympathy with his afflicted family in the hour of their great bereavement and sorrow.

*Resolved*, That our secretary be requested to send a copy of these resolutions to his family, and also to devote a page of our records to their inscription, with his name and the date of his birth and death, in memory of our loss and in token of our esteem.

*Resolved*, That the board attend the funeral in a body, as a mark of respect to his memory.

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MASSACHUSETTS TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE.

*Resolved*, That in the death of the Hon. William B. Spooner, the cause of temperance has lost a devoted and life-long friend, the city an honored and successful merchant, and the charities of the Commonwealth a munificent patron.



## IN MEMORIAM.

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BY JOHN F. COLES.

His was a character of wondrous mold,  
So equal on each side, yet reaching far  
In all directions to a righteous end.  
Life was no riddle nor a sphinx to him.  
He knew the duty of each passing hour,  
And every hour that duty saw performed.  
His book of daily life was cleanly kept,  
And no mistakes were made for morrow's mending.  
Calm in debate, deliberate in thought,  
He weighed his words as bankers weigh their gold,  
So nothing from his lips might haply slip  
That did not give the clear, sharp ring of truth.  
With judgment sound, and heart convictions strong  
As adamant rock, he right upheld  
By simple force of pure example.  
With all a woman's tenderness and love,  
He stood a guardian spirit to the poor,  
To every noble cause a life-long friend,  
And to his race a glory and a pride.  
Farewell, great heart! Thy earthly mission o'er,  
Our prayers go with thee to the shining shore.



